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Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

Date: March 23, 2007

Re: IPI on transfer of copyright

DOE Employees, contractors and grantees are often asked to assign copyright or to grant a copyright license in works that they have authored as a condition precedent to the publication of their manuscripts, or making their presentations at conferences, and the like.

Such requests should be dealt with as follows:

In those instances where a manuscript or other copyrightable work is authored by a DOE employee acting within his or her official capacity, a copyright assignment or license should not be executed. In responding to a request for a copyright assignment or license, the following statement, suitably modified to reflect the circumstances, should be sent to the requester:

The work in question has been authored by a U.S. Government employee acting within his or her official capacity and falls under the coverage of 17 U.S.C. 105. On advice from counsel, the copyright assignment or license cannot be executed.

In those instances where the work has been authored by a DOE contractor or grantee, a copyright assignment or license may be executed with the following statement, suitably modified to reflect the circumstances, and clearly attached to the assignment or license:

The work in question has been authored by a contractor or grantee of the U.S. Government. Accordingly, the U.S. Government retains a non-exclusive, royalty-free, world-wide license to publish or reproduce this work, or to allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.

Paul A. Gottlieb
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for Technology Transfer
and Intellectual Property